

2021 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Date: October 27, 2020
Department: GAPD
Meeting Date: October 13, 2020

Presenter(s) (if applicable): Randy Tucker
and Anneliese Koehler
Length: 45 minutes

Prepared by:
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ISSUE STATEMENT

This work session is the second opportunity to discuss the Metro Council's objectives for the 2021 Oregon legislative session. Proposed legislative priorities will be discussed; additional concepts, as well as proposed updates and additions to the Council's Legislative Principles, may be presented at a subsequent work session in January.

ACTION REQUESTED

The Council may wish to discuss specific legislative concepts or principles or direct staff to develop additional concepts before adopting its legislative agenda prior to the start of the 2021 legislative session.

POLICY QUESTION(S)

- Does the Council wish to confirm previous policy direction under which staff is currently operating with respect to issues that are likely to surface in 2021?
- Are there topics on which the Council would like to adopt legislative positions aside from those described here?
- Does the Council wish to make changes to previously adopted Legislative Principles that guide the actions of staff on issues that may arise during a legislative session?

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

See issue sheets. Other concepts were presented at the October 13 work session and more may be offered at a subsequent work session in January.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

See individual issue sheets.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Like so many things, COVID-19 has impacted the state legislative process. While we don't know exactly how the 2021 session will be impacted, we can say with certainty that it will look different than many prior long sessions. Over the last six months, the Legislature has conducted much of its business remotely and online. Legislative rules do require members

to appear in person for certain processes like floor sessions and parts of committees, and legislators have adapted their processes to accommodate those requirements while still striving to perform most of their duties virtually. All special sessions and legislative days since the start of COVID-19 have been conducted with lobbyists and members of the public prohibited from being in the Capitol building.

As when we were before you in October, we continue to anticipate that much of the session will be focused on the pressing matters currently facing our state including COVID-19, police reform, wildfires, and budget balancing. The most recent revenue forecast was surprisingly upbeat, but budget challenges anticipated over the next couple of biennia suggest that the Legislature will be reluctant to make significant new investments.

Most of the priorities staff expects to propose for the 2021 session reflect well-established Council policy and/or legislative priorities that have previously been included in the Council's agenda. In addition to the issue preparation we undertake every session, we are also working with our staff colleagues and external partners to more effectively integrate the consideration of racial equity into the development and implementation of Metro's legislative agenda.

BACKGROUND

See issue sheets.

ATTACHMENTS

Legislative issue sheets on:

- Southwest Corridor
- Transportation pricing
- Levee Ready Columbia
- COVID relief for visitor venues
- Land readiness
- Climate Smart Strategy

[For work session:]

- Is legislation required for Council action? ☒ Yes ☐ No
- If yes, is draft legislation attached? ☐ Yes ☒ No
- What other materials are you presenting today? Legislative issue sheets